

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 COA-02 CPR-02 SCS-03 PRS-01 PA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7696

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0342

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: CONSULAR CONVENTION

REF: A. STATE 047932; B. STATE 046081

1. ON MARCH 11, EMBOFF INFORMED CHIEF MFA CONSULAR SECTION (KARASLAVOV) THAT USG SUGGESTS CONVENTION BE SIGNED IN SOFIA BY AMBASSADOR HERZ FOR THE US SIDE. REFERRING TO POSSIBLE MID-APRIL 1974 VISIT OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE DENT TO SOFIA, EMBOFF NOTED DEPARTMENT SUGGESTION THAT SECRETARY DENT MIGHT ATTEND SIGNING CEREMONY. KARASLAVOV RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD REPORT US PROPOSAL TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INFORM EMBASSY WHICH BULGARIAN OFFICIAL WOULD SIGN, ASSUMING SOFIA SIGNING ACCEPTABLE TO GOB.

2. BELIEVE IT IS UNLIKELY GOB WILL MAKE COUNTERPROPOSAL ON PLACE OF SIGNATURE. BASED ON KARASLAVOV'S INFORMAL REMARKS, EMBOFF GIVEN IMPRESSION THAT GOB WILL SIGN AT LEVEL LOWER THAN MINISTERIAL, PROBABLY DESIGNATING FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS TRAIKOV. KARASLAVOV SAID GOB HAD VERY MUCH HOPED CONVENTION MIGHT BE SIGNED IN SOFIA BY THE SECRETARY BUT HAS UNDERSTOOD THAT A VISIT BY THE SECRETARY TO SOFIA DURING 1974 WAS UNLIKELY.

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3. PURSUANT REFTEL (B), EMBOFF NOTED THAT TRADITION CALLS FOR PREPARATION FINAL DOCUMENTS AT PLACE OF SIGNING AND THAT TEXTS (AND ALTERNATES) NORMALLY PREPARED BY HOST GOVERNMENT. KARASLAVOV SEEMED TAKEN ABACK AT TYPING WORKLOAD AND CITED PREPARATION TEXTS BULGARIAN-CZECHOSLOVAK TREATY WHEREBY CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY SOFIA PREPARED CZECHOSLOVAK LANGUAGE DOCUMENTS AND MFA DID BULGARIAN LANGUAGE VERSIONS. KARASLAVOV POSED MFA'S LACK BINDERS BEARING US SEAL WHICH HE ASSUMED WOULD BE NECESSARY AND AVAILABLE ONLY FROM USG. HE ULTIMATELY RECOMMENDED DETAILS ON PREPARATION TEXTS BE WORKED OUT LATER. WE HAVE NOTED REFTEL (B) SUGGESTION THAT US SIDE MIGHT UNDERTAKE PREPARATION ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEXTS BUT PREFER TO DEFER ON COMMITMENT PENDING MFA'S CONSIDERED DETERMINATION WHETHER IT IS EQUIPPED TO HANDLE CHORE.

4. KARASLAVOV NOTED SPECIFICALLY HIS HOPE THAT, SHOULD SIGNING TAKE PLACE IN SOFIA, HORACE SHAMWELL L/M WOULD COME TO SOFIA FOR FINAL LANGUAGE COMPARISON AND CEREMONIES. WE ALSO SEE SHAMWELL'S PARTICIPATION AS HIGHLY DESIRABLE.
BATJER

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